

CAREER FOSTER PARENT PROGRAM

The Career Foster Parent (CFP) Program was developed as a result of seeing an influx of children with diverse and complex needs which were not appropriately met through existing out-of-home care placement resources. These children experienced multiple placements as they were moved from foster family to emergency shelters and back again in an attempt to secure stability. Such moves were often expensive and very traumatic for the children. The program is also responsive to the needs of children who previously have been hospitalized, placed in highly structured setting, and/or experienced multiple placements.

A goal of the program is to provide children with serious behavior and emotional disorders with intensive individualized intervention in a family and community based setting. Career placements are to be viewed as a transitional placement designed to stabilize the child and prepare him/her for a less structured environment, (e.g., traditional foster care, family reunification and/or successful independence). Children who qualify for individualized care will likely be very challenging and provocative. They may pose a threat to the safety of themselves, others, or property and at times are non-responsive to behavior modification techniques or more traditional disciplinary measures. Due to the severity of the children's needs, the CFP are not allowed to care for more than two individualized care children at the same time, with a total of no more than four Out-of-Home care children. Such homes are therapeutic family-based settings provided by foster parents who have received extensive training in coping skills and intervention techniques needed to implement treatment programs for children in their care. These co-professionals are an integral part of the treatment team and are the primary treatment agents for the children in their care.

Career foster parents receive \$47 per day for each child placed in their home as individualized care placements. Career foster parents receive transitional payments of \$21 per child per day for up to ninety days following the departure of an individualized care child from their home. Children's Division currently has 384 career foster homes and has 440 children in this type of placement.

Foster care expenditures (including specialized foster care) for SFY-02 is \$51,956,409 with the average number of children served per month 11,799. Projected total of foster care expenditures for SFY-03 is \$48,504,468 with the projected number of children served as 9,918.